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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 12

May 30, 1942

CONNECTICUT (May 22).--Meeting of State workers held to consider educational program on control of cost of living. One radio discussion written for broadcast, to be followed by others. Folder on seven-point program to be printed and distributed to rural families. Article written for publication in eight county papers.

College will recommend granting honorary recognition to farm people who make outstanding contributions to welfare of their communities. Board of trustees will determine how these awards shall be granted this year.

Necessary to abandon plans for training course in farm work mentioned in previous report due to lack of acceptable applicants.

DELAWARE (May 1).--Neighborhood leadership program inaugurated, with neighborhoods mapped and tentative program developed by a State committee. All counties in process of dividing into communities and neighborhoods, with a man and woman leader for each 10 to 20 farm families. Approximately 1,500 to 2,000 leaders will be used. When leadership system is in full operation it is expected real emergency information can be given to 85 to 90 percent of all farm families in State in a 12-hour period.

Home demonstration activities include demonstrations on food preparation, canning, storing food in freezer lockers; work with rural families in account keeping; constructing women's work clothing; fix-it-up home repair project.

Demonstrations on improved pasture production set up throughout State. Increased soybean production, canning crop demonstrations, farm labor, receiving attention. Working with Army on mosquito control. Cooperating with beekeepers by issuing "Delaware Beekeepers' News." Spray-service notes to farmers continued.

During 4-H Mobilization Week 115 new members enrolled. Demonstration 4-H teams organized in food and dairy production. Club members cooperating in conducting hybrid corn demonstration plots.

GEORGIA (April 30)--Preparations made to set up organization of voluntary leaders on community and neighborhood basis to be known as Victory Volunteers. Delineation of natural communities and neighborhoods well under way. Each specialist assigned three to four counties to assist in organization, and district group meetings planned for discussion of program in detail with county workers.

Four special home demonstration agents have been placed in field to assist in program for home processing of food products in counties without home demonstration agents.

4-H Club Mobilization Week a success and check of enrollment indicates 100,000 4-H Club members.

The Victory Garden program is under way, and spring garden interest maintained. Egg marketing situation being taken care of by cooperative egg sales, and other marketing methods being used in counties.

MAINE (May 15)--Setting up of county labor committees completed. State Department of Education cooperating in registering all secondary school pupils who will be available for work this summer. U. S. Employment Service will use this enrollment to fill requests for this type of labor.

Extension specialists have kept county workers informed on priorities and assisted with various problems arising in counties. Information on this and farm labor program passed on to farmers through press and radio.

Because of past winter's serious hay shortage, following recommendations being made to dairy farmers: Topdress hay fields with manure or fertilizer; plant emergency hay crops; increase acreage corn silage. Farmers advised to plant more leguminous green manure crops, and methods of handling manure to prevent loss nitrogen.

Approximately 1,700 poultrymen enrolled in poultry-management project and receiving "Timely Topics" for poultrymen. University poultry department has developed special mash formula for poultry which is being tried out in Aroostook County. Will make it possible for them to produce from 50 to 80 percent of the feed consumed by their poultry.

"Sew and Save" project carried on in counties in form of 2- to 3-day schools. Aids-in-clothes-buying meetings held throughout State to give latest information on shortages, substitutes, prices, etc., as they affect clothing and suggest adjustments to meet changes.

MISSOURI (May 15).--Two-day conference held at college on developing and servicing a leadership structure that will reach all farmers in State; plans made for 36 group conferences. Nine teams of extension specialists and administrative workers will participate in these conferences with county agents, home demonstration agents, and others. Expected that by end of each conference each county will have developed plans for establishing a complete leadership structure.

Follow-through procedure developed to convert balanced farm plans into action. Activities in 50 counties include neighborhood balanced-farming tours, planning schools for leaders, meetings with leaders on difficult problems, construction demonstrations in terracing, water-management systems, etc.

1943 production-goal statistics for all counties assembled. Questionnaire forms for surveying sample counties developed and arrangements made for conferences with agents and representative farmers.

Leader-training meetings for neighborhood poultry leaders held 48 counties with 1,161 leaders attending; 127 meetings on care and handling eggs attended by 3,353. Hog and beef leaders instructed in 20 county-wide meetings. Feeder Day program held at university on efficiency in feeding grain, silage, and pastures. Local elevators purchased 24 carloads or 23,000 bushels CCC wheat for farmers as result hog-management demonstrations. One lumberman each county cooperating in helping farmers build Victory poultry equipment. Leaders in fruit areas furnished information on spray materials, and protection crops from disease and insects.

Volunteer homemakers who completed 8 lessons on nutrition given by certified home economists will receive 9 additional lessons worked out by nutrition specialists. Lessons will be used by volunteer homemakers in holding schools in nutrition.

Nutritionists met with county nutrition committees in four counties to coordinate activities of the program of Extension, FSA, schools, parent-teacher associations, federated women's clubs, OCD, and others. Groups were asked to stress following: Eat right; produce and preserve essential foods; reduce waste of food from the table, kitchen, garden, schools and from improper cooking. Leader training and method demonstrations on wartime meals given in 12 counties. 15 district conferences for home demonstration agents and FSA home supervisors on canning and food preservation at which county-wide food-preservation programs planned to reach every neighborhood.

Committee on rationing has assembled and has ready for distribution information on rationing, priorities, and price ceilings.

Assistance given in meetings in 77 counties emphasizing soil-conservation practices as production requirements are increased.

Prospective soybean crop about 900,000 acres. Four counties in State will secure growers for 80 acres castor-bean seed each county. Meetings held with growers and ginners on long-staple cotton production.

MISSOURI (Continued).--National 4-H Club mobilization week closed with 1,874 clubs enrolling 29,773 members, an increase of approximately 50 percent.

Committee on emergency rural fire control has completed recommendations to county agents on carrying out fire-control programs.

NEW JERSEY (May 25).--Organization of New Jersey Extension Service Volunteer Corps under way, with State committee appointed. Also subcommittees on farm and home, economics and distribution, labor, equipment and supplies, general production, Federal agencies, information. Committees will consider subject-matter material and problems to be relayed to Volunteer Corps. Many counties expect to complete organization by June 1. At county level plans include county committee composed county extension agents and one agricultural leader for each township who will be known as township chairman. The township chairman will select and appoint a local 4-H Club leader and a local women's advisory board member to serve on township committee. Under direction of committee, township will be divided into communities or neighborhoods, with two volunteer leaders, one man and one woman, for each neighborhood of from 10 to 15 families. Each community leader will keep in close touch with members of the neighborhood group. Under this plan the Volunteer Corps will maintain a State-wide network of direct and rapid communication extending outward from State committee to county committees, township committees, and volunteer community leaders, to individual farm families.

Technical committee on production goals appointed. Regional dairy, poultry, and vegetable meetings held in representative sections for discussion of present production trends and opportunity for expansion, factors limiting production, and possible factors limiting solution.

Representatives attended regional OPA and OCD conferences in New York City on controlling cost of living, and program has been presented to all county workers at district meetings.

Food-for-Freedom program being furthered in series of daily and weekly broadcasts on three radio stations.

OREGON (May 1).--Farm labor advisory subcommittees organized 35 counties in cooperation U. S. Employment Service, with committee meetings held to consider probable dates of peak labor needs for various agricultural activities, analysis local labor supply and extent of shortage, availability of heretofore unused local labor resources, labor-saving methods, establishment average wages for various farm activities.

Educational meetings held in counties with county and community AAA committeemen, in connection wheat quota referendum held 27 counties. Follow-up meetings in 10 more important wheat counties, with 1,038 farmers attending.

OREGON - (Continued)

Plans under way for expansion of six milk plants which will have capacity to manufacture daily 12,300 pounds powdered milk, and 6,350 pounds cheese. Extension dairy specialists assisting by advising on obtaining necessary funds

Assistance given local Granges and other groups in assembling data on actual supply available trucks, and probable needs, on county basis.

A total of 625 meetings dealing with some phase of homemakers' contribution to war emergency program held during April, attended by 14,971. Home-management project continues to have as objective, training the homemaker to carry on activities around home which were formerly carried by a male member of household. 52 meetings attended by 1,117, included instructions on home repairs, kitchen remodeling, health emergencies.

Clothing construction, dress alterations, better buying and tailoring discussed at 81 meetings attended by 1,472 women.

The Extension Service has completed organization of more than 700 rural fire-control units in 33 of 36 counties in State, with 6,800 volunteer fire fighters included in crews organized to date. Counties divided into districts with fire chief and assistant in each. Training of leaders in fire-control program nearing completion.

Special 4-H Club meetings held in every county during Mobilization Week. 25,000 4-H Club members and more than 2,500 local leaders continue to emphasize a program designed to meet wartime needs of the Nation.

WYOMING (May 15).--Survey indicates most counties will reach production goals, though labor shortage may be a limiting factor. All counties enrolling high-school boys for farm and ranch labor. In some counties county agents and Smith-Hughes workers cooperating in giving such boys training in harnessing horses, hitching up teams, and handling farm implements.

Garden meetings and demonstrations continued. Poultry program expanded to include some work with 4-H Club members on chick brooding. Nutrition committees organized in four counties in cooperation Civilian Defense to analyze food needs and setting up nutritional programs to fit needs.

4-H Victory Labor Project evolved as wartime measure. Boys and girls who have to work full time on the home farm or farm of a neighbor and therefore can not carry a club project, may enroll and by keeping certain records and writing a story of their season's farm work, be considered a club member. They may attend such club meetings as they can, take part in social and recreational features, and thus keep in touch with club work and development.

